

Serial No. 10/776,103

Reply to Office Action of November 10, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Claims 21-35 are allowed, claims 1-11 and 14-20 are rejected, and claims 12-13 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. By this amendment, claims 1, 13, and 14 are amended, and claims 12 and 16-20 are canceled. Further reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 and 17 stand objected to as containing informalities. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 12, and the informalities have been corrected in amended claim 1. Claim 13 is amended to properly depend from amended claim 1 and is deemed to be allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Claim 14 has been amended to correct the informality. Claim 15 is deemed to be allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Claim 17 is canceled. Thus, it is deemed that all of the informalities have been corrected and remaining claims 13-15 are now in proper form.

Claims 1-11 and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by admitted prior art. Claims 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. The allowance of claims 21-35 is noted.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 12. Claim 12 directly depended from claim 1, and so there are no further intervening limitations to include in amended claim 1. Therefore, it is deemed that amended claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 2-11 and 13-15 are deemed to be allowable as being dependent upon allowable base claim 1. Claims 16-20 have been canceled. Remaining claims 1-11 and 13-15 are therefore deemed to be allowable under 35 USC 102(a).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon to Arimoto et al and Ooishi has been reviewed and is not deemed to be pertinent to the allowability of claims 1-11 and 13-15 as amended, and allowed claims 21-35.

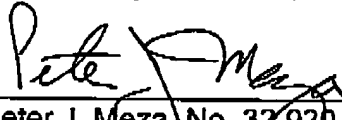
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In view of all of the above, remaining claims 1-11, 13-15, and 21-35 are now believed to be either allowed or allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

1/30, 2006


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